

PRESS CONFERENCE
HAYAT SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT
September 22, 2005

Good afternoon, my name is McGregor Scott. I am the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. I am joined by FBI Special Agent in Charge Drew Parenti and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent in Charge Charles DeMore. This morning a federal grand jury here in Sacramento returned a superseding indictment against Hamid Hayat bringing an additional charge of providing material support to terrorists. This charge is in addition to charges already brought against Hamid Hayat on June 16, 2005, on two counts of lying to federal agents. No additional charges have been brought against Umer Hayat who was previously charged on June 16, 2005, with lying to federal agents. Today's charge centers around the fact that Hamid Hayat attended a terrorist training camp in Pakistan in 2004, returned to this country with the intent of committing jihad against America, and by doing so provided material support to terrorists. This additional charge carries a maximum punishment of 15 years, and with the remaining charges, Hamid Hayat faces a maximum punishment of 31 years.

There will be a detention hearing for both Hamid Hayat and Umer Hayat tomorrow before Magistrate Judge Gregory Hollows at 2:00 p.m. It is anticipated that they will be arraigned on the new indictment at that time. They are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

On August 16, 2005, Mohammad Adil Khan of the Lodi Mosque was deported to Pakistan. As of today, travel arrangements for Shabbir Ahmed also of the Lodi Mosque are still pending. These men were illegally in the United States, having provided false information in support of their religious visa applications. They both voluntarily agreed to be deported to Pakistan. Our country will be safer with these men no longer being on American soil.

When we announced the original charges against the Hayats in June, we told you this was an ongoing investigation and that when appropriate we would report back to the community. The Joint Terrorism Task Force here in Sacramento in conjunction with our partners in Washington have worked long and hard over the past three months to build the case leading to this providing material support to terrorists charge here today. We have gone, and will continue to go, where the evidence takes us.

In these types of investigations we have three goals: detect, disrupt, and deter. These goals have been achieved in this investigation. Hamid Hayat stands charged with providing material support to terrorists and with lying to the FBI about terrorism-related matters. Umer Hayat stands charged with lying to the FBI about terrorism-related matters. Mohammad Khan has been deported, and Shabbir Ahmed soon will be. We have detected, we have disrupted and we have deterred, and whatever was taking shape in Lodi isn't going to happen now.

Before calling on SAC Parenti to make a few brief remarks, I would like to speak to the community in Lodi, and particularly to the Muslim community there. This investigation has targeted conduct, not people. As I have said, we have gone and will continue to go where the evidence takes us. I am grateful to the Muslim leaders in Lodi and in the greater Sacramento area who have afforded Keith Slotter, Drew Parenti and me the opportunity to meet with them on a number of occasions since this case first broke. We share their belief that open dialogue serves all of us well in building greater trust. I now would like to call on Drew Parenti.